

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 00485 111018Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----111025Z 002634 /14
O 111006Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4579
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 00485

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN FROM STOESSEL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.), GW, WB, US, PFOR
SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT TO EUROPE

REF: STATE 5532

1. I RECOMMEND THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT GIVE
SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO INCLUDING A BRIEF STOPOVER
IN WEST BERLIN ON HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP TO EUROPE.
2. FOR REASONS THAT YOU FULLY APPRECIATE, HIGH-LEVEL
AMERICAN ATTENTION TO BERLIN IS IMPORTANT AT ALL TIMES.
MOST PROMINENT AMERICANS, INCLUDING SEVERAL PRESIDENTS
AND VICE-PRESIDENTS, HAVE VISITED THE CITY OVER
THE PAST DECADES. AT THIS MOMENT OF TRANSITION, EVEN A
BRIEF CEREMONIAL STOP WOULD BE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT
IN CONVEYING MESSAGES TO THREE AUDIENCES:

-- FOR OUR MOST IMPORTANT ALLIES, THE GERMANS, IT
WOULD PROVIDE REASSURANCE OF THE CONTINUING AMERICAN
INTEREST AND UNDERSTANDING FOR THEIR MOST PAINFUL
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PAGE 02 BONN 00485 111018Z

DILEMMA.

-- FOR OUR MOST IMPORTANT ADVERSARIES, THE SOVIETS,
IT WOULD SERVE AS A SIGNAL OF FIRMNESS AND A
REMINDER THAT WE CONTINUE TO VIEW BERLIN AS THE TOUCH-
STONE OF DETENTE. RECENT DIFFICULTIES IN BERLIN COULD
INDICATE THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE AUTHORIZED THE GDR TO

ACCELERATE THE FINAL INCORPORATION OF EAST BERLIN INTO THE GDR. A VISIT AT THIS MOMENT MIGHT HAVE A DETERRENT EFFECT ON WHATEVER OTHER PLANS THEY MAY HAVE IN MIND, AND THUS COULD HELP AVERT ACTIONS THAT COULD HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR DETENTE IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC.

-- FOR THE WEST BERLINERS THEMSELVES, THE VISIT WOULD PROVIDE A FRESH BOOST TO MORALE. THIS IS NOT AN ABSTRACT THING BUT AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF OUR CONTINUING EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE PSYCHOLOGICAL MOOD AND THUS THE FAVORABLE CLIMATE FOR BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT, ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF THE VIABILITY OF THE CITY AND A KEY PART OF OUR POLICY.

3. I REALIZE THAT TIME IS SHORT AND THE SCHEDULE IS CROWDED. A VISIT OF A FEW HOURS, EITHER EN ROUTE FROM BRUSSELS TO BONN OR BETWEEN BONN AND PARIS, WOULD, HOWEVER, BE WELL RECEIVED AND WOULD SERVE AMERICAN AIMS WELL.
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Message Attributes

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